

THE OUTCROP.

Devoted to the Mining and Development of the Windermere and Golden Divisions of the District of North East Kootenay.

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\$2.00 Per Year.

ONTARIO VS. B.C. FRUIT

An Ontario Man Talks of Southern B. C. Fruit

Back in the early nineties, those of us who were engaged in fruit growing in Ontario used to hear local stories of what was being done in a horticultural way in the far distant province of British Columbia, stories which were taken with the customary grain of salt, until we saw the actual product of the orchard brought east for the convincing of the unbeliever. It was largely such fruit which we saw at that time, and it was not until about 1898 when the still later stories of the inland fruit began to arrive that we got uneasy, and thought that a land where five year old clear trees could yield a full crop of clean, unblemished fruit must be worth going to see. It was about this time that the great orchard of Lord Aberdeen at Vernon was commencing to bear, but accompanying the tales of wonderful production, came hints that the make was doubtful, and price no good. How this has all been changed during the past two or three years we all know. It was customary to compare the inland district together and refer to them as "the interior," a huge, half-explored country which might, or might not be worth anything from the horticultural point of view. This same "interior" has shown that, in spite of some drawbacks, it can produce a class of fruit which for cleanliness and quality can excel the coast grown product, and every year we are seeing more fruit from inland districts reveal its possibilities as a fruit country.

The opening up of the Kootenay mining country gave a stimulus to fruit raising some years ago, and when, more recently, the true value to the great market on the prairies began to reveal itself, and proof had been abundantly shown that the climate and soil of southern British Columbia were ideally suited for the production of a first class apple, plum, cherry, and pear, the fruit industry was roused, and we have witnessed an activity and expansion in horticultural matters which is amazing to those who have not studied these things. It is a movement which is only in its youth, and which is based on the soundest of foundations.

If any doubt existed as to the value of this industry they would be speedily dispelled by the frank and favorable criticism of expert testimony from the outside. At New Westminster Professor Van Dorman, the foremost pomologist authority on the continent, pronounced the B. C. fruit the finest and cleanest collection he had ever judged. Prof. Lake, of Oregon, was convinced by his visit to Okanagan orchards that he had an unequalled fruit country. Mr. McNeil, the chief of the fruit division at Ottawa, believes that we have it in our power to dominate and control the fruit market of the great northwest, and the first evidence came in the shape of gold medals to British Columbia fruit and the silver medals for Kootenay fruit, to the face of all colonial competition in London, where they know the merits of a good apple when they see one.

The total yield of fruit in British Columbia in 1904 may be valued at over \$500,000 and \$600,000. Last year we witnessed the shortest apple crop over the whole continent, but still the output of B. C. will probably be an increase in value of from 15 to 20 per cent over the

previous year. The planting of the past two years has been phenomenal, more than half a million trees going in each year, and it is evident that 1903 and 1907 will witness a much more rapid planting still, for last year marked the subdivision of various large estates with the express purpose of devoting the areas to commercial fruit culture.

While the interior of the province can show a tremendous area susceptible of successful production of many fruits, it is becoming more apparent that the southern portion of the interior is the special country where all the choice fruits of the temperate zone will be cultivated with absolute success. The district embracing Kootenay lake and south (which includes the Columbia valley) along the lower Arrow lake; the Boundary country, the lower Okanagan, and the Similkameen, is the great horticultural districts of the future. Large parts of this district will not only be capable of producing the finer and tender fruits, but will have the unspeakable advantage of doing so with an almost complete freedom from the threatening fungus diseases which are the bane of Ontario and of the coast.

From Kelowna to the foot of the Okanagan lake the successful culture of the peach has been amply demonstrated. Still further south, in the Kootenay valley, not only has the Crawford peach been raised for years to perfection, but Black Hamburg grapes have been raised in the open, and the fact speaks volumes. I have referred to the exceptionally favorable conditions under which the orchardist in Southern British Columbia prosecutes his work, and can only repeat that no man who has had some horticultural experience can fail to be struck with the immense advantages possessed by the grower here. Apart altogether from the absence of the most formidable of the insect pests—a priceless boon—we are fortunate in having climatic conditions which fit the production of a highly colored, firm, and clean sample of fruit of excellent quality.

In the east two classes of fruit, viz., the plum and the cherry, were never so subject to "rot" (mould) that it was not uncommon for a grower to lose from 25 to 50 per cent of his crop of some varieties, even after careful and expensive spraying methods had been practised. Here, on the other hand, the growers' profits are not diminished by the ravages of the sort. Take for example that large red plum, the "Pomona Seedling," in the east I have seen several when it was impossible to save 25 per cent of the crop, yet this year our own trees bore an excellent crop, with not a single specimen affected with "rot," and remaining firm after being picked for five days and standing for three days in the Nelson fair trials.

It is these things which make every man who has looked into the nature of the fruit industry in Southern British Columbia feel that such a country will continually and successfully invite the attention of those who are seeking an ideal horticultural location, and will be come at no distant date the banner fruit district of the Dominion.

The foregoing was written by Mr. Martin Burrell of Grand Forks by the Nelson Daily News and should create a good deal of interest from the comparisons made with the Ontario and B. C. fruit. Articles written by such practical men as Mr. Burrell will do more good in the direction of attracting fruit growers to Southern B. C. than all the news paper comment that can be printed.

Windermere District is the finest part of the B. C. Garden Valley.

The prairie farmer's Paradise—Columbia Valley.

Church of England service will be held in Wilmor next Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. A meeting will be held after the service to appoint church officers, etc.

THE LEAD QUEEN MINE

Three Prospectors Spend \$12,000 in Developing the Group of Claims

Henry Schweinigh and Sam Derr arrived in town last week from the Lead Queen mine, on No. 3 creek. They were accompanied down to Hurst's ranch by their other partner, Tom Brown. They quit work on account of running short of candles and some other supplies and do not intend returning until they can take up business with supplies. They left Wilmor on the 8th of last October and after sacking up their supplies and preparing for the winter they started a new tunnel a little above the upper cabin. When they quit work the tunnel was in 310 feet, 115 feet of which had to be timbered, and most of the timber used was packed by the men a considerable distance. This goes to show the extent of these three practical miners and prospectors, to whom too much credit cannot be accorded. Had this work been done by contract the cost would have exceeded \$3,000 at the usual price paid for contract work in this country. When to this is added the fact that a New York mining engineer, who examined the property in 1903 and reported very favorably upon it, stated that he estimated the work then accomplished cost between \$7,000 and \$8,000, some idea of the enterprise of these men can be gleaned. They have done all this without the aid of capital, besides doing a lot of trail work. By trapping and working in other mines they have earned the necessary money to pay for the supplies used in doing work on their claim worth close on \$12,000. They are, we repeat, deserving of great credit and it is to be hoped the example will be followed by others and that these men will in due time be fully rewarded for their labor.

The object in starting this new tunnel was to open the big lead on the property between two tunnels previously run and which are in ore. However, the men anticipate that the new tunnel will cross the lead when run about another 40 or 50 feet, and when this is done the value of the property will be greatly enhanced.

The lead on this property has been traced the full length of the Lead Queen group of five claims and over the two claims of the Steele group adjoining it. This lead is acknowledged to be the longest and straightest in the camp and it has been uncovered in many places on the surface as well as crossed by three tunnels, including the tunnel on the Steele group.

Croppings

N. C. Neilson, of the Big House ranch, near Windermere, on Monday presented The Outcrop with four pounds of the choice butter made on his ranch, which certainly can be classed with the very best butter manufactured anywhere, being of excellent quality and put up in neat one-pound bricks. Mr. Neilson has obtained a complete modern plant for making dairy butter and is now prepared to turn out a first class article on scientific principles.

Capt. Thorold returned last week to Fairmont from a visit to his home in England. It is now at his ranch on Dutch creek, which is undergoing great improvements. Teams are busy hauling lumber from the Wilmor Lumber Company's yard for his new house.

Arthur Teger is preparing to haul down ore from the Seabee mine to the Windermere wharf.

Born—On Tuesday, February 5th, 1906, to the wife of N. C. Neilson, of Windermere, a daughter.

The value of the cotton crop for the past five years reaches \$2,974,000,000, while the world's total gold and silver production in the same time only reached \$2,567,832,000.

Jas. McLeod, the well-known prospector, got a nasty fall at Atholmer Sunday morning, which fortunately resulted in nothing worse than a badly swollen face.

Owing to the hour The Outcrop has to go to press to catch the outgoing mail it is quite impossible to give any account of the Masquerade Ball at Atholmer last night, other than to say it was a success in every way.

The Outcrop got a fine assortment of comic and fancy valentines from those persons most expected to be thoughtful of our interests and all are much appreciated. A section of our art gallery will be set a part for them.

A firm that dealt in masquerade suits at Winnipeg recently "went broke" and on Monday when a number of Windermere people, who had sent orders to the firm, learned this there was great disappointment and not a few curse words.

The total foreign trade of the United States in 1905, the three billion mark it aggregated \$2,974,000,000 in 1905, both exports aggregated \$1,626,000,000 and the imports \$1,348,000,000. The balance on the right side of the ledger reached the formidable sum of \$448,000,000.

Over at Lethbridge the Liberal Association has pronounced in an emphatic manner in favor of the Provincial Government demanding a money deposit from every company seeking a railroad charter and compelling the company also to guarantee to construct the road within a certain time. Failure to carry out this provision would result in the money being forfeited. An act of this kind might work out to good advantage in British Columbia.

Jack London has been saying nasty things in Chicago about the disaffected capitalists. He said: "Ten million persons throughout the United States are suffering from chronic starvation, and the condition of thousands of others in vast slums and factories is worse than that of the cave dwellers. Russia's revolutionists, who meet legal murder with assassination, are doing the same as American soldiers in the revolution who fired volleys of lead at the British. In New York, with its numerous millionaires, 50,000 children go to sleep hungry. Man has increased his producing power one thousand fold since the days of the cave men, and yet thousands are starving. Capital and labor, management by the capitalist class, which has held the reins of power, is responsible for this condition."

Truth needs no tiel. Weakness cannot wait. Friends never come in flocks. Love is the great lesson in loneliness. Labor is the noblest of all prayers. Every one would like to graduate first. The world needs kindness more than credit. All sins are home-made but none are self-made.

When religion is only a thing it is worse than nothing. Enough is as good as a feast; more leads but to famine. Even a child knows the difference between piety and piety. Look to your works and your wings will take care of themselves. It is easy for him to forgive the man who has wronged the other fellow.

K. C. R. RUMOR DOUBTED

Generally Believed that the Road Will be Built at Once

There is a persistent rumor afloat that the Kootenay Central Company managers have about given up hope of securing aid from the Provincial Legislature at the present session and will endeavor to get an extension of time from the Dominion Government. How much truth there is in this rumor it is difficult to learn, but it is hoped and thought by many to be groundless. However, publicity is a good thing and in printing this rumor The Outcrop does so that it may be corrected, if false. Without advancing any arguments why this rumor may be right or wrong The Outcrop does not hesitate to say that should an effort be made to get an extension of time from the Dominion Government it will be as strongly opposed by the people along the line as they have worked to obtain aid from the Legislature. The people along the route want the road built, but they will stand for no further postponements. If construction is stopped this country will advance much more rapidly than it has been doing since the road was first promised, but if construction is pushed to completion it will advance that much faster. Nevertheless, it is the general belief, and it is freely expressed, that the road will be built at once.

Cremated Fruit Pests.

It is of first importance to a country wherein the fruit growing industry is in its infancy to keep out all the pests that infect older fruit countries. In this respect it is gratifying to know that the authorities are determined to enforce the most stringent regulations in British Columbia and the following from the Vancouver World should prove to intending investors in the fruit growing industry that their very best interests will be safely guarded:

The ashes of a costly bonfire for someone are smoldering in the yard of the provincial fumigating station. The ashes represent what is left of 4,000 peach trees, condemned to the pyre by Provincial Inspector Cunningham. About two-thirds of the trees came from Tennessee. They bore inspection certificates as being free from pests, signed by the Tennessee officials. They were fumigated here in the Dominion fumigating station and handed over to the provincial authorities to await developments. Examination after a month or so showed the roots to be full of samina extosa, or peach root borers, all alive and busily at work. Many of the roots carried root galls, which would have prevented the trees from ever reaching proper maturity. A World reporter was shown live specimens of borers, picked from the roots in his presence. Mr. Cunningham said the fumigation was done according to the Dominion regulations, but neither the peach borers nor the apple tree lice die from the effects. Trees fumigated by the Ontario authorities were found to be smothered with apple lice on arrival here. These trees were intended for parts of the province where such pests are as yet unknown and Mr. Cunningham is determined that they will never get there if he can help it. Who will bear the loss depends on the agreement made between the purchaser and the vendor. In regard to that Mr. Cunningham said: "All that concerns us is to see that no infected stock is permitted to reach the innocent fruit grower, whom we have invited and encouraged by all lawful means to embark in the fruit growing industry. No matter who loses by our condemnation we shall see that the grower has all the protection that the most stringent regulations can give him. As far as our department is concerned, we take no chances, when dangerous pests are discovered on trees and plants; we cremate them. The furnace is the proper place for infected trees, and you see for yourself we are living up to our profession."

Lumbermen's Rubbers, Shoe Packs and German Sox

P. T. Co.,

WILMER, - - - B. C.

TORONTO, ONTARIO

style in The Outcrop Job Department

JOHN McLEOD, - - - Manager.

A. R.
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Wilmer

Only Paper printed in the Rich Windermere Mining Division
Oldest and Most Reliable Newspaper in North East Kootenay
News while it is News given without fear or favor for \$2.00 a Year
A High Grade Chute of Job Printing is uncovered and is worked for the
benefit of Humanity and the Editor